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I think that the nurses have not studied this bill, or they would not have raised money to employ a lecturer to go around and favor this bill. If the State of New York would give a conspicuous R.N. pin as Rhode Island does, to be worn only by the R.N.'s, and if the nurses would spend as much money to prosecute the impostors as they have raised to carry this bill, the dignity of the R.N. would not be questioned. The proposed bill admits that the present method is a failure and needs changing. But why is it necessary to give up all we have been so many years in getting? Laws might be made to restrict and license inferior nurses, but not to educate and certify them. This bill should be opposed by the nurses. Make nursing more attractive for pupils and graduates. If the training schools were on an eight-hour day, and the course were cut from three to two years, the supply of good nurses would be sufficient.

Syracuse

ELSIE W. HILLEN, R.N.

(See editorial comment on this subject.—Ed.)

#### EXPERIENCES OF UNIT NO. 53

Dear Editor: I have been so much interested in reading the experiences of hospital Units that I would like to tell something of the experiences of Unit No. 53, of which I had the honor to be the Chief Nurse. I received my appointment in Chicago, July 1, 1918, and left for Camp Dix, Wrightstown, N. J., July 3rd. I passed the Chief Nurses' examination and received orders to proceed to the Nurses' Mobilization Station, New York, to organize my unit. By August 20, the entire Unit had assembled. We were very busy completing records and without a stenographer's assistance I found this a very strenuous undertaking. Typewriters were at a premium, but since there were no objections to our getting a typewriter I rented two. Fearing that we might be unable to secure the use of a typewriter overseas, my Unit agreed to buy a Corona, which we did, and it was in use constantly. On September 1, we sailed in "The Aquitania," eight thousand troops and Units 66 and 53. The first day we were privileged to see the ship. The second day, very definite rules were given which enlightened us as to our duties and the observance of which assured us of a safer voyage. Each day grew more strenuous, boat drills, siren calls, life savers, sea sickness, mumps, measles, etc., added to our daily duties. Sea sickness did not excuse anyone from boat drills. We reached South Hampton after a seven days' trip, and our Unit was directed to the *Esequibo*, an English hospital ship, to sail for Le Havre. It was well equipped and we were taken care of nicely. We remained in Le Havre one night and then started for Langres, which was located in the valley and with so much rain, acquired the name "Mud Hole." Mud, however, did not interfere with the good work done at this Base Hospital. Nurses wore rubber boots, pinned up their dresses, and plowed through the mud. Duck walks could not be made because the men were too busy putting up tents. A convoy of 900 men came to us the first night we were there. These men were suffering with influenza, pneumonia, and other illnesses. Unit 55 were living in some of our barracks and having had a little rest, undertook the care of this convoy during the night. The greatest difficulty we experienced was in getting clean linen for the patients. Nurses washed sheets and towels and carried all the water. In fact, besides the bedside care, we attended to all the housekeeping and prepared a great deal of the food. The sugar, chocolate, cocoa, etc., that nurses had in their possession they gave to the patients. Any opportunity a nurse had she went to the village and bought for her sick patients the delicacies she knew they would enjoy. The St. Mihiel Drive was on and large convoys kept coming in until both bases at

this center were filled with patients. We had beside forty-two barracks, sixteen tents, with fifty cots in a tent, all were filled with sick men, but not wounded. At this same time fifteen nurses were ordered to other stations where there were very few nurses to do the work. This lessened our number and the work increased to such an extent that the working hours were from sixteen to eighteen a day, during this emergency, but no one complained of having too much to do. The greatest disappointment in Unit 53 seemed to be that more could not be done for these soldiers. It rained incessantly and with the cold, shortage of fuel, and few stoves, at times you would think the strongest heart would fail. During the influenza epidemic many nurses were sick with colds and several were off duty, but the greater number never gave up. The damp, cold weather was so penetrating, we were required to wear all the warm clothing we had. Another difficulty was to get this laundered. After February 1, 1919, we managed to get a small laundry for nurses' clothing and with the help of a few maids, under the supervision of a nurse who could speak French, we took care of about 2,000 pieces. Until that time we washed our own clothes after the work in the hospital was finished. About November 1st, 1918, we got stoves and at 5 o'clock in the morning fires were built and nurses could get about the stove to dress. Our work kept up very briskly until March 1, 1919, as patients were being evacuated from other hospitals, nearer the front. Our Unit at one time consisted of 203 nurses. After January 1, 1919, nurses were given leaves of absence to any place it was permissible for them to go. Red Cross searchers were busy writing letters for patients. Our two chaplains were accessible to calls and most of the time were busy with patients. The "Y" was very near and services were held in the "Hut" every Sunday. We had a large Red Cross Hut always open. In this Hut was a nice library, a large dancing floor, and our wonderful band played most of the time, also at Retreat. After the armistice, we had more ambition for recreation and monthly dinner dances, theaters, movies, concerts, etc., took up considerable time. Over one-half of the number of nurses in Unit 53 requested to remain in the A. E. F. An evidence of appreciation by the French Government was the citation given our Unit by the Mayor of Langres and a number of honorable officials. A formal program was given. Our Flag was decorated with the colors and an insignia of the coat of arms of Langres, beautifully displayed in colors, was presented to the Unit. The nurses wore this insignia on the left sleeve. Our Unit flag was sent to Miss Thompson, who appreciated the honor. We went for work and we found it. We lost none of our number, although several have come back physically unfit for duty.

LOUISE M. SPOHR.

## RANK FOR NURSES

### I.

Dear Editor: While the question of Rank for Nurses is being so universally discussed and agitated, I feel that now is the time to correct erroneous expressions regarding the Army Nurse Corps. The term "Enlisted," as so often spoken of, by Reserve and Emergency Nurses, has no place in Army Nurse Corps paper work, nor has the term, "Service Record." The Army Nurse is "Appointed," and carries a "Letter of Appointment." Personally, I have always been shown courtesy by all the Army, but if with all the new members, it is necessary to begin a system of education, to enable the Army Nurse to "carry on," in the position for which she is trained and "appointed," and Rank for Nurses will help, then now is the time for it. The nucleus, the Regular Army,